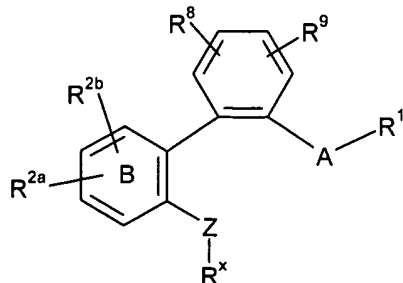


In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 9-10, 14-16 and 18. Please amend claims 1, 3-6, 8 and 11-13 as follows. Please add new claims 19-21 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

A represents is an optionally substituted aryl, or an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered heterocyclyl ring, or an optionally substituted bicyclic heterocyclyl group;

B represents is a phenyl or pyridyl ring;

Z represents is O, S, SO, or SO₂;

R¹ represents is CO₂R⁴, CN, CONR⁵R⁶, CH₂CO₂R⁴, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted SO₂alkyl, SO₂NR⁵R⁶, NR⁵CONR⁵R⁶, COalkyl, 2H-tetrazol-5-yl-methyl, optionally substituted bicyclic heterocycle or optionally substituted heterocyclyl;

R^{2a} and R^{2b} independently represents are hydrogen, halogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkoxy, CN, SO₂alkyl, SR⁵, NO₂, optionally substituted aryl, CONR⁵R⁶ or optionally substituted heteroaryl;

R^x represents is optionally substituted alkyl wherein 1 or 2 of the non-terminal carbon atoms are optionally replaced by a group independently selected from NR⁴, O and SO_n, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2: or R^x represents optionally substituted CQ^aQ^b-heterocyclyl, optionally substituted CQ^aQ^b-bicyclic heterocyclyl or optionally substituted CQ^aQ^b-aryl;

R⁴ represents is hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl;

R^5 ~~represents~~ is hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl;

R^6 ~~represents~~ is hydrogen or optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted SO_2 aryl, optionally substituted SO_2 alkyl, optionally substituted SO_2 heteroaryl, CN, optionally substituted CQ^aQ^b aryl, optionally substituted CQ^aQ^b heteroaryl or COR^7 ;

R^7 ~~represents~~ is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl or optionally substituted aryl;

R^8 and R^9 independently ~~represents~~ are hydrogen, chloro, fluoro, CF_3 , C_{1-3} alkoxy or C_{1-3} alkyl;

Q^a and Q^b are independently selected from hydrogen and CH_3 ;

wherein when A is a 6-membered ring the R^1 substituent and phenyl ring are attached to carbon atoms 1,2-, 1,3- or 1,4- relative to each other, and when A is a five-membered ring or bicyclic heterocyclyl group the R^1 substituent and phenyl ring are attached to substitutable carbon atoms 1,2- or 1,3- relative to each other;

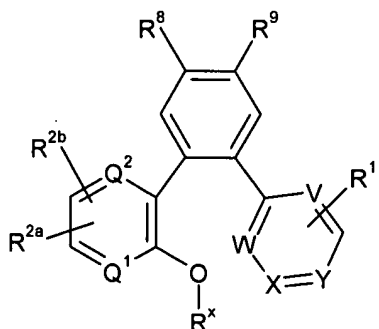
and derivatives thereof;

provided that the compound is not 2-benzyloxy[1,1';2',1'']terphenyl-4"-carboxylic acid.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein when A is a 6-membered ring, the R^1 substituent and phenyl ring are attached to carbon atoms 1,2-, or 1,3- relative to each other.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein A is phenyl, pyridyl, or pyrazinyl.

4. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (Ia):



(Ia)

wherein:

W, X, and Y each represents are CR¹² or N;

V represents is CR¹, CR¹² or N;

wherein at least two of W, X, Y or V is CR¹²; and R¹² is independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, CN, optionally substituted CO₂C₁₋₆alkyl, CONR⁵R⁶, NR⁵R⁶, optionally substituted NR⁵COC₁₋₆alkyl, optionally substituted NR⁵COpheyl, optionally substituted NR⁵COpiperidiny, optionally substituted NR⁵COheterocyclyl, optionally substituted NR⁵SO₂C₁₋₆alkyl, OH, optionally substituted OC₁₋₆alkyl, optionally substituted C₁₋₆alkyl and NR¹⁰R¹¹;

Q¹ and Q² each represents is CH, or one of Q¹ and Q² is N and the other is CH;

R¹ is CO₂H, optionally substituted CONHSO₂aryl, CH₂CO₂H, SO₂NHCOR⁷, SO₂NHCOC₁₋₆alkyl or tetrazolyl and is positioned 1,2-, or 1,3- relative to the phenyl ring;

R^{2a} and R^{2b} are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, or and CF₃;

R^x represents is optionally substituted C₁₋₈alkyl, or R^x represents optionally substituted CQ^aQ^b-heterocyclyl or optionally substituted CQ^aQ^b-phenyl wherein Q^a and Q^b are independently selected from hydrogen and CH₃;

R⁴ represents is hydrogen or an optionally substituted C₁₋₆alkyl;

R⁵ represents is hydrogen or an optionally substituted C₁₋₆alkyl;

R⁶ represents is hydrogen or an optionally substituted C₁₋₆alkyl, optionally substituted SO₂phenyl, optionally substituted SO₂heterocyclyl group, CN, optionally substituted CH₂phenyl or COR⁷;

R⁷ represents is hydrogen, optionally substituted heteroaryl or optionally substituted phenyl; R⁸ and R⁹ independently represent hydrogen, chloro, fluoro, CF₃, C₁₋₃alkoxy or C₁₋₃alkyl; and R¹⁰ and R¹¹ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a morpholine ring, a 5- or 6-membered lactam ring or a 5- or 6-membered cyclic sulphonamide, and derivatives thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ wherein R^x is optionally substituted C₁₋₈alkyl, optionally substituted CH₂phenyl, CH₂pyridyl, or CH₂thienyl.

6. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ wherein R^{2b} is positioned 1,4- relative to the Z substituent and 1,3- relative to the phenyl ring.

7. (Original) A compound selected from the compounds of Examples 1-90 or a derivative thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof~~ together with a pharmaceutical carrier and/or excipient.

9-10. (Canceled)

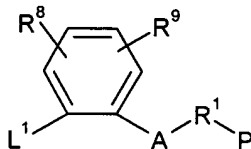
11. (Amended) A method of treating an ~~a human or animal~~ subject suffering from a condition which is mediated by the action of PGE₂ at EP₁ receptors which comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof~~.

12. (Amended) A method of treating an ~~a human or~~ animal subject suffering from a pain, or an inflammatory, immunological, bone, neurodegenerative or renal disorder, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof~~.

13. A method of treating an ~~a human or~~ animal subject suffering from inflammatory pain, neuropathic pain or visceral pain which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof~~.

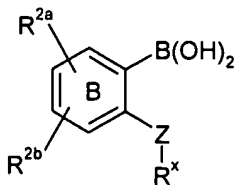
14-16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 ~~or a derivative thereof~~ comprising:
reacting a compound of formula (IV):



(IV)

wherein R^8 , R^9 , A, and R^1 are as hereinbefore defined above for a compound of formula (I), L^1 is a leaving group and P is an optional protecting group;
with a compound of formula (III):



(III)

wherein R^{2a} , R^{2b} , B, Z, and R^x are as hereinbefore defined above for a compound of formula (I);
and where required converting:
one group A to another group A, and/or
one group R^x to another group R^x ;
and where required carrying out the following optional steps in any order:
effecting deprotection; and/or
converting one group R^1 to another group R^1 ; and/or
forming a derivative of the compound of formula (I) so formed.

18. (Canceled)

19. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein said animal is human.

20. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein said animal is human.

21. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein said animal is human.